

CITY OF EDGEWOOD
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

May 1, 2006
6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Link called the meeting of the Edgewood City Council to order at 6:30 p.m. in council chambers of the Edgewood City Building. The following council members were present: Bill Grady, Scott Guenther, Jeff Schreiber, Mark Steffen, Ray Spears and Nancy Atkinson. Also in attendance were City Administrator Roger Rolfes and City Clerk Jeanette Kemper. City Attorney Frank Wichmann was absent but Linda Schaeffer was present in his place. Councilman Dale Henson was absent.

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Mr. Guenther added item #23 Freedom Park soccer field.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Mr. Guenther made a **motion** to adopt the April 17, 2006 minutes as written; seconded by Mr. Spears. Mr. Steffen abstained. **Motion passed: 5 ayes – 1 abstention.**

REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

Swearing in of Police Officer Michael Winkler – Mayor Link swore in newly appointed Police Officer Michael Winkler. Chief Kramer reported that Officer Winkler will be attending the police academy in Richmond starting May 8th and will graduate on September 29th.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Link thanked RC Hinsdale Willow Pod for inviting him to visit with them to give a presentation about the city.

Administrator's Report – Mr. Rolfes stated that candidates for various offices for the upcoming election are calling and wanting to appear before council. Mr. Rolfes confirmed with council that this is something that council prefers not to see happen but if they wish to come as a regular citizen and speak under "Citizens wishing to be heard" then they are welcomed and if they want to state who they are and what they're running for he believed they're eligible to do that but they are not to be campaigning. Council agreed.

Staff Reports – Council reviewed reports from the following staff members: City Administrator, City Clerk, EMS/Fire, General Services, Police, and Recreation.

CITIZENS DESIRING RECOGNITION ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Facilities Update – Mr. Rolfes stated that we are still progressing; hope to obtain our permanent certificate of occupancy within the next two weeks; and Pilot continues to address the punch list items. Mr. Rogers thanked Mr. Egbers for doing a great job with the landscaping at the new building.

Dixie Fix Update – Mr. Rolfes stated that the most recent information council received had some sketches of cross sections of possible streetscapes that council could choose and recommend for Edgewood's section of the Dixie Highway corridor. They have a meeting coming up on May 11 for public input. Mr. Rolfes felt that the city should wait until our next council meeting before we get into it in case we get some input from our residents. We can go ahead and submit what we would like to see after we receive any additional input from the public. Council was asked to review the information given to them and then we'll select a cross section for the corridor that runs through Edgewood that would be most compatible with our community.

NEW BUSINESS

Agreement with Crestview Hills – Mr. Rolfes stated that he was contacted by the city of Crestview Hills about a complicated situation. Summit Drive, which is partially in Edgewood and partially in Crestview Hills, on the left side of the road past Dixie High School there is a storm water line that needs to be replaced which would run through the property of the school to the Dixie Highway and back into Crestview Hills. Last year there was a cave-in in the parking lot of the school; which the school repaired. The Board of Education was ready to enter into an agreement with Crestview Hills regarding the storm sewer line through which the city would pay a part and the Board of Education would pay a portion. They would then build the line. And they think it will go back to the Sanitation District. There is now litigation pending on the matter. A councilmember for Crestview Hills stated that the city couldn't build a utility line outside the city limits. The line is in Edgewood; Crestview Hills is now hoping that we would accept the line. It is a concrete storm drain, which normally doesn't have any maintenance with it. They asked if Edgewood would accept it and would we be willing to be a co-applicant to the Sanitation District to get a return of potentially 50% of the cost if the lawsuit is favorably resolved. Mr. Rolfes recommended that Crestview Hills provide a Hold Harmless Agreement and a statement that clearly indicates that Edgewood is not obligated for any of the cost of the project then we'll be a co-applicant to the Sanitation District subject to council approval. Their attorney is drafting the document. Mr. Rolfes asked council for their concurrence; council did concur.

Waive profits tax – Mr. Rolfes received a call from a woman regarding a bill she received from the county for late fees she received on her net profits tax. She made one sale in Edgewood for \$59.99. That generated a \$.01 net profits tax. He believes she paid the penny or at least tried to and was told she still owed an additional \$49.99 because there is a \$50.00 minimum. She felt that was unfair and did not pay it. She is now being told that she owes \$52.51 for principal and interest. She believes that this is very unfair. Mr. Rolfes believes that this is similar to a recent situation that occurred in Hamilton County where a lady was taken to court in an effort to collect a very small tax. Mr. Rolfes discussed this with Frank and they agreed that the most practical thing to do was waive the tax. However, the ordinance does not provide for that. Technically speaking, the only correct answer is to amend the ordinance. If the ordinance is amended Mr. Rolfes suggested some minimal amount be established and if the tax was less than that amount it would be waived. Mr. Rolfes suggested waive the fee.

Mr. Grady made a **motion** to waive the tax; second by Mrs. Atkinson. Discussion - Mr. Spears was in favor of waiving the fee and felt that maybe the ordinance should be amended that would automatically waive the fee if it were below a certain amount. Mr. Steffen agreed and suggested setting it at \$5.00. Mr. Schreiber suggested eliminating the minimum. Council agreed to eliminate the minimum; Ms. Schaeffer will advise Mr. Wichmann who will amend the ordinance to reflect the change and bring it back at the next meeting for first reading. Vote was taken and **motion passed: 5 ayes – 0 nays**.

Freedom Park Soccer Field – Mr. Guenther stated that he has received complaints about the poor condition of the field. He said despite our efforts to repair the field it has not worked and would like council to contract it out to a company who could get it in playable conditions and then we could reassume the maintenance. Mr. Rolfes stated that the problem is we're trying to grow grass on rock. The dirt was skimmed for the fill needed for Thomas More Parkway. You can only go down a few inches and you run into rock. Last year we hauled in 260 truckloads of topsoil, it was crowned, fertilized, and grass seed was planted. We surveyed other fields and found out what type of fertilizers and grass seed that they used. When we used the same fertilizer and seed that they used, the weeds came up better than the grass. The field was then sprayed to kill the weeds but it killed everything. Public Works and Dixie Soccer have planted grass. Another problem was that the sprinkler system leaked causing some flooding in some areas. It has since been repaired. Rubberized material was also placed on the field. The field is now crowned. Mr. Goetz stated that the city used three types of seed and new fertilizer. He further stated that they can't keep kids off of it. Mr. Schreiber asked if we should wait until next year to do what Mr. Guenther's suggesting. Mr. Goetz said no; there's time to do it this year. Mr. Spears agreed with obtaining an outside opinion. Mr. Steffen said we may want to look into getting a synthetic field; see if Dixie Soccer would be willing to help pay for it. He believes we'll never solve it because of the ongoing sports seasons with soccer and football. Mr. Schreiber

and Mr. Spears said that a synthetic field would be too expensive. Mr. Schreiber agreed with Mr. Guenther's suggestion. Mayor Link said we will obtain an outside opinion and report back to council.

ORDINANCES, MUNICIPAL ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Proclamation 2006-05 was presented to Mary Noble with Toddler Inn recognizing 35 years of service.
- Perennial Swap - Freedom Park – May 13 - 10 a.m.
- The Water District will be hydrant flushing the week of May 15th.
- Open House & Dedication of new city building will be Saturday May 20th 10 am. – 4 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Spears made a **motion** to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Grady. **Motion passed: 6 ayes – 0 nays.**

Budget presentations followed the meeting. Roger Rolfes reported on Revenues, Jeanette Kemper reported for Administration, Chief Tony Kramer reported for Police and Kim Wolking reported for Recreation.

Mayor John D. Link

Attest: _____
Jeanette Kemper, City Clerk

Date passed: _____

CITY OF EDGEWOOD
BUDGET MINUTES
MAY 1, 2006

Budget meeting started at 7:40 p.m.

Revenues – Mr. Rolfes reported that revenues are the same for the most part. He stated that we did borrow money from ourselves for the new building project; we owe ourselves about \$500,000. We still carry \$1M in fund balance and \$100,000 in Municipal Road Fund. This budget is a rough draft. The budget increased about \$211,000 over last year. Mr. Grady asked Mr. Rolfes how he based his estimate on the payroll tax. Mr. Rolfes said he worked off the March treasurer's report and looked at what we collected to date, projected out the 4th quarter and added 4% to that. We believe that the majority of folks in the area will get a 4% or better increase. Mr. Spears asked about the decrease in net profits. Mr. Rolfes said it's driven by the year to date figures. Part of the problem is that due to it being a net profits tax there are people who tend to find a way not to make a profit. We did lose Insight and Frito Lay who moved their offices out of the city. Mr. Schreiver stated that most of the people probably pay it by April 15th and we just haven't received a check yet. He further stated that St. Elizabeth is about to employ a lot of people.

Administration - Jeanette Kemper reported that we anticipate a 15% increase in health insurance premiums; we haven't received our rates yet. She added two line items. One of which is 100.5254 Lockbox/Property Taxes \$5200 that was recommended by the auditor and agreed upon recently. The other new line item is 100.5156 Fuel \$2500; this was created because all of the other departments have a separate line item for this and administration used to take theirs out of vehicle operation. The waste collection fee is an estimate; we are currently obtaining bids and those are due June 6th. The utilities – gas, electric, water, sanitation and telephone line items were consolidated between fire and administration. Administration will pay these items from now on instead of dividing between the departments. You'll see a zero on those items in the fire department budget. The postage meter rental line item increased due to new regulations requiring everyone to switch to a digital meter. Mr. Schreiver suggested that we look into purchasing a machine instead of leasing. CIP items – allocated \$10,200 for computers and \$2500 for office furniture, which is a standing item and we'll use it when needed.

Police – Chief Tony Kramer stated that due to rising fuel costs he increased that line item significantly. He went back three years and looked at fuel usage and they averaged 14,000 gallons a year then he took an estimate of \$3.25 per gallon and multiplied it out to come up with the \$21,500 increase. Another significant increase was line item 300.5222 Miscellaneous due to accreditation fees of \$3000. 300.5147 Varda Repair – has never been done and it should be done every six years so he allocated \$2500 to do that. They saved \$2900 in the canine line item 300.5254 due to the retirement of Tamar. Part time salaries increased due to the Chief wanting to hire a part time officer to help fill in gaps in the schedule for officers that are on vacation or in training. It would more beneficial to hire a part timer at this time rather than creating another full time position with benefits even though he would like to eventually add another full time officer in the future. The remaining part time salary is for the crossing guard. Mr. Schreiver asked for more information that would show why another officer is needed. Chief said he would reprint out his five-year budget from last year that shows his study. He says they are handling more activity today per officer than they were when they added the additional officer in 1999. He's not sure that a part time officer will solve the issue but it is a temporary fix until they can come to a more long-range solution. Mr. Schreiver said he understands the reasons but wants to see it in writing. Mayor Link asked if this would cut down on the overtime. Chief Kramer responded that it probably would not. The overtime mostly is due to court appearances, special events such as the 4th of July and National Night Out.

Tuition line item decreased due to an officer graduating from school soon. Mrs. Atkinson asked about the decrease in cruiser equipment of \$1500. Chief Kramer said that they are scheduled to replace three vehicles but they are only going to replace two.

Recreation – Kim Wolking reported that her overall budget increase was \$12,600. The majority of it falls into the operating/maintenance area. Increased volunteer incentives by \$700 due to being so conservative in the past. Programs increased by \$6,750 because of new programs coming such as roller-skating night, movie night, putt putt and other family events. Have had requests for yoga classes; allocated \$1,100 for those. Leagues increased by \$900 due to the number of teams registering. Will have Edgewood nights at the Florence Freedom ballpark. A resident is interested in starting a kids lacrosse club for grades 3-8. There will be an article in the next newsletter to see if there is any interest. Mr. Spears suggested suspending Flag Football in the fall due to the condition of the field. Mr. Schreiber said that they don't play on the soccer field. They are more towards the baseball field. Kim said it did rest last year because she couldn't find qualified officials. Mr. Spears said if the city is going to have someone come in and do an evaluation of the whole park area he would like to see what they would suggest before we commit to anything. Mr. Guenther stated that other cities such as Ft. Mitchell rent out the Great Escape movie theater for movie night for their residents and asked if that is something we can look into doing. Kim said that is part of our family night events to come. Mr. Spears asked where the lacrosse club would play. Kim said they're just trying to find out if there is any interest first. Kim said they're also going to look into dodge ball. Mrs. Atkinson asked about Frisbee golf. Kim said she has talked to Erlanger's recreation director about putting together an event at Banklick Woods Park. Mr. Steffen asked about the senior center maintenance line item. Kim said we have quarterly floor and carpet cleaning and since the building is still new we would like to keep it new. It will need to be painted next year.

Budget meeting ended at 9:00 p.m.